

From: [Eoc, Epahq](#)
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EOC Spot Report: Region 6, Post-Tropical Cyclone Harvey - Update #18

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Report as of September 5, 2017 at 2130 EDT

Overview: Hurricane Harvey made landfall at 2300 ET, August 26, as a Category 4 storm near Rockport. Harvey was downgraded to a Category 1 Harvey stalled over southeastern TX. The impacted area received more than 50 inches of precipitation, and catastrophic flooding occurred. Harvey was eventually downgraded to a tropical storm with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph. On September 4, the President approved the addition of seven more counties (Austin, Bastrop, DeWitt, Gonzales, Karnes, Lavaca, Lee) to the Disaster Declaration. This brings the total number of counties on the Presidential Disaster Declaration to 39. Response efforts associated with Hurricane Harvey continue. River and bayous will continue to fall below major flood stage, but long-duration flooding will affect response activities.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions: FEMA has activated the NRCC at Level 1 with all Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) and deployed National and several regional Incident Management Assistance Teams (IMATs). FEMA's Region 6 RRCC is also at Level 1. The Texas Governor's Office has asked EPA to assist Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in assessing two State Superfund Sites in Beaumont and Port Arthur. The Houston Mayor's Office asked EPA to sample NPL Superfund sites within the city.

EPA Actions: EPA continues to conduct ambient air monitoring in Houston, and is evaluating an area of potential concern associated with emissions from Valero is in Houston Refinery. EPA's Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) is conducting air monitoring in southeast Houston around the Valero Refinery. An EPA On Scene Coordinator is deployed to the site in order to conduct additional assessments.

EPA is deploying a surge of Community Coordinators to integrate into County Emergency Operations Centers throughout the impacted area and provide information regarding the environmental hazards related to flood waters on structures in the affected area.

Arkema Update: At the Arkema facility, the local fire department conducted a controlled burn of the remaining six trailers. They lifted the 1.5-mile radius evacuation order on September 4. Arkema continues to work with the local authorities to aid in returning residents affected by the evacuation order back to their homes. EPA has demobilized from the Arkema site.

Drinking Water / Wastewater Assessments: EPA is providing support to TCEQ for drinking water (DW) and wastewater (WW) system assessments. There are 10 members at the TCEQ Austin phone bank including one assisting with data flow.

On September 5, TCEQ, EPA, and members of the Texas Optimization Program for Surface Water Plants staff provided technical assistance to the City of Beaumont water system. The power source has been restored and the system is currently pumping water. Because of the previous low pressure issues, the city continues to be under a boil water notice.

EPA Laboratory/Analytical Services

The Houston laboratory is reporting that they will be closed until **Friday September 8**. The laboratory and office buildings are not damaged. EPA has back up capabilities for laboratory services should the Houston facility remain closed.

Refineries/Fuel Waivers

EPA continues to receive and approve, as appropriate, fuel waiver requests.

EPA Office of Emergency Management (OEM):

The HQ EOC activated on August 28 and is at Level 1 operations. The HQ EOC is coordinating on several levels with Region 6 and other Federal Agencies. The HQ EOC has deployed personnel to the FEMA National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) to staff the ESF #10 Desk Watch.

Media Interest: High

Note: The HQ EOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed

Tim Grier, Senior Watch Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Headquarters Emergency Operations Center
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460
202-564-3850
<mailto:eoc.epahq@epa.gov>